

STATE OF MAINE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Docket No. 96-442

September 9, 1996

NEW ENGLAND TELEPHONE COMPANY
D/B/A NYNEX

ORDER APPROVING
REQUEST FOR WAIVER

Proposed Filing in Compliance with
Phase II of Basic Service Calling Area
Rule (Chapter 204)

WELCH, Chairman; NUGENT and HUNT, Commissioners

By this Order, the Commission 1) grants the request of New England Telephone Company d/b/a NYNEX to extend the deadline, for delivering written notices to its customers in the Newport and Rockland exchanges describing the Economy and Premium Calling areas and Optional Calling Plans, required by the Commission's Basic-Service Calling Area Rule (Rule) to October 15, 1996; and 2) extends the same deadline for Mid-Maine Telecom, Inc., (Mid-Maine) for its Plymouth exchange and Tidewater Telecom, Inc., (Tidewater) for its Union exchange to October 15, 1996.

NYNEX requests the extension with the understanding of the Rule's two essential deadlines. Customers must be allowed 60 days to make their decision and the implementation date of Phase II of the Rule must be January 1, 1997.

NYNEX will direct mail the notices to each customer describing the relevant changes, rather than including such notice within the normal billing process. NYNEX will provide a toll-free telephone number for customer response. Considering the above provisions, we will grant the requested extension.

Additionally, Tidewater and Mid-Maine previously filed requests to implement the Phase II changes of the Rule on an abbreviated schedule. In the orders approving both companies' Rule compliance filings, Sections A and B of Chapter 204, Part VI were cited, directing Tidewater and Mid-Maine to adhere to the Rule implementation schedule.¹

By granting NYNEX's request for extension we must also allow Tidewater and Mid-Maine to follow the same schedule. This will prevent customer confusion and the possibility of a BSCA route being local one direction and toll the other direction for a short time. Accordingly, Tidewater and Mid-Maine are required to send notice to each of their affected customers explaining the Economy and Premium calling area options and asking customers to

¹ Docket Nos. 95-147 and 96-243, Tidewater Telecom, Inc., *Order Approving Request for Waiver and Approving Compliance Filing*, July 2, 1996, page 2. Docket No. 96-275, Mid-Maine Telecom, Inc., *Order Approving Compliance Filing*, July 2, 1996, page 1.

choose Economy or Premium calling area no later than October 15, 1996; and to implement the new rates and calling area options no later than January 1, 1997.

Therefore, it is

ORDERED

1. That the deadline for New England Telephone Company to deliver written notices to its customers, in the Newport and Rockland, exchanges describing the Economy and Premium Calling areas and Optional Calling Plans is extended to October 15, 1996.

2. That Tidewater Telecom, Inc., and Mid-Maine Telecom, Inc., shall deliver notices to their customers in the Union and Plymouth exchanges, respectively, describing the Economy and Premium Calling areas and Optional Calling Plans no later than October 15, 1996.

3. That New England Telephone Company d/b/a NYNEX, Tidewater Telecom, Inc., and Mid-Maine Telecom, Inc., will implement the new rates and calling area options for Phase II of Chapter 204, by January 1, 1997.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

Christopher P. Simpson
Administrative Director

COMMISSIONERS VOTING FOR:

Welch
Nugent
Hunt